year. There shall also be elected annually a first alternate and second alternate to serve as acting members in the order elected in case of the temporary absence of a member or to become a member in the order elected in the case of resignation, disqualification, removal, or death of a member of the committee. In the event an alternate fills a permanent vacancy on the committee, such person shall assume the office until the next election or until the replaced committee member's successor is elected and qualified. An acting member shall have the same duties and authority as a regular member.

(e) In any county where there are three local administrative areas, the delegates elected pursuant to § 7.9 (a) and (b) of this part shall meet in a local administrative area convention held before the close of the same calendar year in which they were elected to elect a county committee member and a first and second alternate. A first and second alternate shall serve as acting members of the committee in the order elected in case of the temporary absence of a member, or to become a member in the order elected in case of the resignation, disqualification, removal, or death of a member of the county committee. In the event an alternate fills a permanent vacancy on the county committee, such person shall assume the unexpired term of the county committee member who was replaced. An acting member of the county committee shall have the same duties and authority as a member. The Deputy Administrator may fix the exact convention date. Each delegate shall be entitled to only one vote on any ballot, and there shall be no voting by proxy. A majority of the delegates so elected and qualified to vote at the time of the convention shall constitute a quorum. Such convention shall be held to the extent practicable in the manner set forth in § 7.10 of this part and in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator.

[52 FR 48512, Dec. 23, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 23749, June 24, 1988]

§ 7.10 Conduct of county convention.

(a) The county committee serving at the time shall be responsible for designating the place at which the county convention will be held and for the conduct of the convention in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator.

(b) The delegates to the county convention shall determine which county committee members shall be the county committee chairperson and county committee vice-chairperson.

(c) Each local administrative area shall have the same number of delegates at the county convention. If a portion of the delegates from a local administrative area are precluded from attending the county convention as the result of the limitation imposed by the preceding sentence, the delegates from such local administrative area shall elect those delegates who shall attend the county convention.

(d) County conventions shall not be associated with or held in conjunction with any other election or referendum conducted for any other purpose.

(e) The county committee shall give advance public notice of the county convention which shall be open to the public.

(f) The county executive director shall notify in writing all newly elected county committee members, alternates, and county committee members with unexpired terms of the election results.

§ 7.11 County committee members.

(a) County committee members elected in accordance with § 7.9 of this part shall hold office for a term of three years or until a successor is elected and qualified.

(b) The county committee shall select a secretary who shall be the county executive director, other employee of the county committee, or the county agricultural extension agent for the county. If the county agricultural extension agent is not selected as secretary to the county committee, that person shall be an ex officio member of the county committee but shall not have the power to vote.

[52 FR 48512, Dec. 23, 1987, as amended at 53 FR 23750, June 24, 1988]

§ 7.12 Tie votes.

(a) Tie votes in community committee elections held by mail or polling place method shall be settled by

lot. Tie votes in such elections held by the meeting method which cannot be settled by further balloting on the same day shall be settled by lot. In counties with one local administrative area, a tie vote in determining the chairperson and vice chairperson of the county committee which cannot be settled by further balloting on the same day shall be settled by lot.

(b) In the county or local administrative area convention, tie votes which cannot be settled by further balloting on the same day shall be settled by lot.

§ 7.13 Vacancies.

(a) In case of a vacancy in the office of chairperson of county or community committee, the respective vice chairperson shall become chairperson; in case of a vacancy in the office of vice chairperson, the respective third member shall become vice chairperson; in case of a vacancy in the office of the third member, the respective first alternate shall become the third member; and in case of a vacancy in the office of the first alternate, the respective second alternate shall become the first alternate. When unanimously recommended by the three members of the county committee, as constituted under this paragraph and paragraph (c) of this section, and approved by the State committee, the offices of chairperson and vice chairperson of the county committee may be filled from such membership without regard to the order of succession prescribed in this paragraph or the action of the delegates to the county convention.

(b) In case of a vacancy in the panel of delegates to the local administrative area or county convention, the respective community committee alternates shall act as delegates.

(c) In the event that a vacancy, other than one caused by temporary absence, occurs in the membership of the county committee and no alternate is available to fill the vacancy, the State committee shall call a meeting of the delegates of the appropriate community committees to elect persons to fill such vacancies as exist in the membership of the county committee and in the panel of alternates, except as provided in § 7.28 of this part.

(d) In the event that a vacancy, other than one caused by temporary absence, occurs in the membership of the community committee and no alternate is available to fill the vacany, a special election shall be held to fill such vacancies as exist in the membership and in the panel of alternates.

§ 7.14 Appeals.

(a) Any eligible voter in the county may appeal to the county committee in writing or in person, or both:

(1) The eligibility or ineligibility of a person to vote,

(2) The eligibility of a person to hold office, and

(3) The validity of the community committee elections. Such appeal must be made within 15 days of the election date, except that appeals on a determination of eligibility of a person nominated by petition must be made within 7 days of the date of notification of ineligibility.

(b) Any eligible voter in the county may appeal to the State committee in writing, in person, or both:

(1) A county committee decision on an election appeal. An appeal of a county committee decision must be made within 15 days of the notification of the decision, and

(2) The validity of a county convention. An appeal on the validity of a county convention must be made within 15 days of the county convention.

§ 7.15 Eligibility requirements of county committee members, community committee members, and delegates.

(a) To be eligible to hold office as a county committee member, community committee member, a delegate, or an alternate to any such office, a person must meet the conditions set forth in this section.

(b) Such person must:

(1) Be eligible to vote in the local administrative area in which the election is held if proposed for county committee member or alternate, or in the community in which the election is held if proposed for community committee member or alternate;

(2)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2)(ii) of this section, be residing in the local administrative area in which the election is held if proposed for

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